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VACCINIUM MACROCARPON, var. INTERMEDIUM.—This name may be given to a form which occurs on the Columbia River, is probably that which in Hooker's Flora is said to occur at its mouth, and is collected higher up, in Washington Territory by Mr. Suksdorf, who sends both flower and fruit. When two very nearly related species occur over a wide range in latitude, the assigned differences are apt to fail at some place or other. The form of Cranberry which Mr. Suksdorf supplies has the stature, small leaves, and small berries of *V. Oxycoccus*. In about half the specimens the scaly bud for the inflorescence is leafy-proliferous, in the others not so, thus destroying a character which appeared to distinguish the two species. On the other hand there is in northern Japan and Sachalin a larger leaved plant which I referred to *V. macrocarpon* and Maximowicz to *V. Oxycoccus*, the bud of which is sometimes proliferous; and its larger leaves equal in size those of ordinary *V. macrocarpon*. They have, however, the slight apiculation which renders the leaves of *V. Oxycoccus* acutish in appearance; while in the Columbia River plant the apex of the leaf is almost retuse. To this small point is reduced the only absolute difference between the two.—A. GRAY.

EPIPACTIS HELLEBORINE.—We have from the Secretary of the Syracuse Botanical Club the following note from Dr. Hooker:

“Mr. Dyer has given me your note reporting the *Epipactis Helleborine*, var. *viridens*, which you have been so good as to send. I am really very much interested in this discovery which on various accounts is an exceedingly important one. It shows a connection between the American and European flora of the rarest kind; another instance being the *Spiranthes Romanzoviana*, and a third, *Eriocaulon septangulare*. Another curious point is that your plant should talk with us of the European varieties of the species, that species being so variable a one, that, *a priori*, it would have been expected that the North American form should have differed from all the European ones! This shows a persistence of very subordinate and what are supposed to be variable characters, of a very remarkable kind.”—

JOS. D. HOOKER.

GRAY'S BOTANICAL TEXT BOOK.—The small edition which was printed in June last having been exhausted, a second issue has been published, bearing the date of 1880. In it various typographical errors and small oversights have been corrected. The author will be obliged to botanists who use the book to point out any errors they may detect, that they may be hereafter corrected.

COMMON AND TROUBLESOME WEEDS NEAR SANTA BARBARA, CAL.—Mrs. Bingham, of Sta. Barbara, California, being asked what were the most common and troublesome weeds in that region, responds as follows:

“The most persistent weed, in cultivated grounds, is *Malva borealis*, which grows sometimes eight or ten feet high. It dies during the dry season, where the ground is not irrigated, but whenever the ground is moistened for a few hours, the seeds will germinate.

Solanum nigrum grows everywhere, blooming and bearing fruit the year round; very difficult to eradicate and troublesome.

Brassica nigra covers thousands of acres of pasture land, rendering it almost entirely worthless.

The old Californians have a legend, that when the country was ceded to the United States, the Catholic Fathers were so enraged that they determined to curse the ground, and so scattered broadcast the *Malva* and mustard.

Stellaria media is abundant after the first rains. *Calandrinia Menziesii* is troublesome in wet weather. *Matricaria discoidea* is common. A variety of *Rumex* abounds in wet weather. *Verbena officinalis* is common in damp places all the year.

Lepidium nitidum is common. *Capsella Bursa-pastoris* grows sparingly in some places. *Datura meteloides* is common in some localities. *Silene gallica*, *Marrubium vulgare* and *Erodium cicutarium* are also common. *Erodium moschatum* and *Medicago denticulata* cover large areas and are valuable for pasturage. Along water courses *Plantago major* and *P. lanceolata* are seen in small quantities, and *Nasturtium officinalis* grows in large patches where the ground is moist. *Hemizonia fascicularis* covers uncultivated grounds in dry weather and is very troublesome. Bees make a very poor quality of honey from it. In cultivated grounds in dry weather we have two varieties of *Chenopodium* and two or three of *Ambrosia*, also several other apetalous plants which I cannot name. *Eremocarpus setigerus* is very abundant in some localities in the dry season.

I have given you the most prominent troublesome plants, and if I was as good a botanist as I would like to be, might tell you more.”

Similar information from other districts is solicited.—A. GRAY.